

al
in
forces, and a shielding plate configured to shield brake components and made of damped steel that dampens noise and vibrations.

a2
Claim 6. (Amended) A backing plate according to claim 4 wherein said damped steel comprises first and second layers of steel of approximately equal thickness.

a2
Claim 7. (Amended) A backing plate according to claim 4 wherein said abutment plate is made of steel.

a3
Claim 9. (Amended) A shielding plate comprising a sheet of damped steel configured to be attached to a vehicle and to protect brake components from dust and dirt, and an abutment plate configured to engage brake shoes and to resist braking forces applied by said brake shoes.

a4
Claim 12 (Amended) A shielding plate according to claim 9 wherein said damped steel comprises first and second layers of steel on opposite sides of a dampening material, said first and second layers having approximately equal thickness.

Please add the following new claims:

Claim 13. (New) A combination according to claim 1 wherein said abutment plate means and said shielding plate are attached to each other.

Claim 14 (New) A combination according to claim 1 wherein said shielding plate is configured to have a hydraulic cylinder mounted thereon.

a5
Claim 15 (New) A drum brake comprising an abutment plate comprising a sheet of steel having a first part configured to attach to an axle housing and a second part configured to resist braking forces, and a shielding plate made of damped steel attached to said abutment plate and configured to support brake shoes.

Claim 16 (New) A drum brake according to claim 15 wherein said shielding plate is configured to receive a hydraulic cylinder.